AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for operating a magnetic storage media drive to perform write operations upon removable serially accessible magnetic storage media in an overwrite protected mode, the method comprising:

receiving a write request and associated write data;

determining if a magnetic storage medium is overwrite protected; and

if the storage medium is overwrite protected

writing the write data to the storage medium followed by an EOD marker associated with the end of the write data,

allowing write operations to the storage medium after previously written data, the write operations overwriting a previous EOD marker associated with the previously written data, and

preventing write operations to the storage medium prior to [[a]] the previous EOD marker.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein if the storage medium is overwrite protected, further comprising locating the last EOD marker on the storage medium, and appending the write data after previously written data.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein if the storage medium is overwrite protected and no EOD marker is present, further comprising locating a beginning of data indicator on the storage medium, and appending the write data after the beginning of data indicator.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising, if the storage medium is not overwrite protected, writing the write data pursuant to the write request.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising locating a portion of the storage medium before a last EOD marker, forwarding to the last EOD marker, and appending the write data at [[after]] the last EOD marker.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising, if the storage medium is overwrite protected, formatting the storage medium to be recognized as overwrite protected.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the media drive determines if the storage medium is overwrite protected based on a physical feature associated with the storage medium.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the media drive determines if the storage medium is overwrite protected based on a software command.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the media drive determines if the storage medium is overwrite protected based on drive level processing.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the drive determines if the cartridge is overwrite protected based on the formatting of the storage medium.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 1, further including preventing the drive from erasing previously written data stored on the storage medium if the storage medium is overwrite protected.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the write data overwrites a last EOD marker.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the magnetic storage medium includes a magnetic storage tape.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method for operating a magnetic storage media drive to perform write operations upon removable serially accessible magnetic storage media, the method comprising:

~~loading a magnetic storage medium into a magnetic storage media drive;~~

determining if [[the]] a magnetic storage medium is an overwrite protected storage medium;

if overwrite protected, initializing the storage medium in an overwrite protected mode, wherein the overwrite protected mode prevents the media drive from writing to the storage medium prior to a previously written EOD marker ~~over previously written data~~ and allows for write append operations; and

writing write data to the storage medium overwriting the previously written EOD marker and followed by an EOD marker associated with the end of the write data.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 14, wherein a subsequent writing operation in the overwrite protected mode includes locating the EOD marker on the storage medium and appending the write data after the previously written write data.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 14, wherein the media drive determines if the storage medium is overwrite protected based on a physical feature associated with the storage medium.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 14, wherein the media drive determines if the storage medium is overwrite protected based on a software command.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 14, wherein the media drive determines if the storage medium is overwrite protected based on drive level processing.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 14, further comprising preventing the drive from erasing previously written write data stored on the storage medium if the storage medium is overwrite protected.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A magnetic storage media drive system configured to perform operations to write data to magnetic storage media in an overwrite protected mode where previously stored data is preserved, the operations comprising:

receiving a write request and associated write data from a host;

determining if a storage medium is overwrite protected; and

if the storage medium is overwrite protected

writing the write data to the storage medium followed by an EOD marker associated with the end of the write data,

allowing write operations to the storage medium after previously written data, the write operations overwriting a previous EOD marker associated with the previously written data, and

preventing write operations prior to an EOD marker.

Claim 21 (original): The system of claim 20, wherein if the storage medium is overwrite protected, further comprising locating a last EOD marker on the storage medium, and appending the write data after previously written data.

Claim 22 (original): The system of claim 20, wherein if the storage medium is overwrite protected and no EOD marker is present, further comprising locating a beginning of data indicator on the storage medium, and appending the write data after the beginning of data indicator.

Claim 23 (original): The system of claim 20, further comprising, if the storage medium is not overwrite protected, writing the write data pursuant to the write request.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The system of claim 20, further including locating a portion of the storage medium before a last EOD marker, forwarding to the last EOD marker, and appending the write data at [[after]] the last EOD marker.

Claim 25 (original): The system of claim 20, further comprising formatting the storage medium to be recognized as overwrite protected.

Claim 26 (original): The system of claim 20, wherein the media drive determines if the storage medium is overwrite protected based on a physical feature associated with the storage medium.

Claim 27 (original): The system of claim 20, wherein the media drive determines if the storage medium is overwrite protected based on a software command.

Claim 28 (original): The system of claim 20, wherein the media drive determines if the storage medium is overwrite protected based on drive level processing.

Claim 29 (original): The system of claim 20, wherein the drive determines if the cartridge is overwrite protected based on the formatting of the storage medium.

Claim 30 (original): The system of claim 20, further including preventing the drive from erasing previously written data stored on the storage medium if the storage medium is overwrite protected.

Claim 31 (currently amended): A computer readable storage medium containing computer executable code for operating a magnetic storage drive to conduct write operations upon

magnetic storage media in an overwrite protected mode by instructing the magnetic storage drive to operate as follows in response to receiving a write request and associated write data:

determine if a storage medium is overwrite protected; and

if the storage medium is overwrite protected

write the write data to the storage medium followed by an EOD marker associated with the end of the write data,

allow write operations to the storage medium after previously written data, the write operations overwriting a previous EOD marker associated with the previously written data, and

prevent writing operations to the storage medium prior to an EOD marker associated with the end of previous write data.

Claim 32 (original): The computer readable storage medium of claim 31, wherein if the storage medium is overwrite protected, further comprising locating a last EOD marker on the storage medium, and appending the write data after previously written data.

Claim 33 (original): The computer readable storage medium of claim 31, wherein if the storage medium is overwrite protected and an EOD marker is not present, further comprising locating a beginning of data indicator on the storage medium, and appending the write data after the beginning of data indicator.

Claim 34 (original): The computer readable storage medium of claim 31, further comprising, if the storage medium is not overwrite protected, writing the write data per the write request.

Claim 35 (currently amended): The computer readable storage medium of claim 31, further comprising locating a portion of the storage medium before a last EOD marker, forwarding to the last EOD marker, and appending the write data at [[after]] the last EOD marker.

Claim 36 (original): The computer readable storage medium of claim 31, further comprising formatting the storage medium to be recognized as overwrite protected.

Claim 37 (original): The computer readable storage medium of claim 31, wherein the media drive determines if the storage medium is overwrite protected based on a physical feature associated with the storage medium.

Claim 38 (original): The computer readable storage medium of claim 31, wherein the media drive determines if the storage medium is overwrite protected based on a software command.

Claim 39 (original): The computer readable storage medium of claim 31, wherein the media drive determines if the storage medium is overwrite protected based on drive level processing.

Claim 40 (original): The computer readable storage medium of claim 31, wherein the drive determines if the cartridge is overwrite protected based on the formatting of the storage medium.

Claim 41 (original): The computer readable storage medium of claim 31, further comprising preventing the drive from erasing previously written data stored on the storage medium if the storage medium is overwrite protected.

Claim 42 (new): A magnetic storage media drive system configured to perform operations to write data to magnetic storage media in an overwrite protected mode where previously stored data is preserved, the operations comprising:

receiving a write request and associated write data;

determining if a storage medium is overwrite protected; and

if the storage medium is overwrite protected

forwarding to an EOD marker associated with previously written data,

appending the write data adjacent the previously written data followed by a new EOD marker, and

preventing write operations to the storage medium prior to the last EOD marker.

Claim 43 (new): The system of claim 42, wherein the appended write data overwrites the EOD marker associated with the previously written data.